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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/752,601	12/29/2000	Frank J. Bunick	MCP-0271	1284

7590

05/28/2003

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EXAMINER
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SPEAR, JAMES M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 05/28/2003

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/752,601

Applicant(s)  
BUNICK, ET AL

Examiner  
JAMES M. SPEAR

Art Unit  
1615



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 21, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 19, and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 19, and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1615

The finality of the rejection of the last office action and indicated allowability of claims 1-13, 19 and 20 is withdrawn in view of the following new grounds of rejection.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-13 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph have been described in *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Among these factors are: (1) the nature of the invention; (2) the state of the prior art; (3) the relative skill of those in the art; (4) the predictability or unpredictability of the art; (5) the breadth of the claims; (6) the amount of direction or guidance presented; (7) the presence or absence of working examples; (8) the quantity of experimentation necessary. When the above factors are weighed, it is the examiners's position that the instant

Art Unit: 1615

disclosure fails to meet the enablement requirement for the following reasons: (1).

The claims are to a process for preparing a tablet requiring the application of energy for a sufficient time to change the properties of the tablet, which in this instance decreases hardness. (2). The prior art did not show heating to reduce hardness (experimentation was required) but modifies properties by changing excipients and atmospheric conditions such as humidity. (3). The relative skill of those in the art is high. (4). The unpredictability of the art is very high. Applicants' specification suggests that while energy being applied to the tablet releases water the tablet becomes softened. This seems in contrast to what the examiner understands to be known in the art and that is normally one would expect the tablet to harden. It is noted that applicants' discussion states the resultant softening to be a theoretical explanation. (5). The claims are rather broad, in particular with respect to the application of energy. (6). In describing the application of energy, applicants disclose heat or electromagnetic radiation, such as microwaves. While heating may be performed at a temperature generally in the range of ambient temperature to 100 degrees C, no other description of energy application is described in detail. (7). All the examples relate to heating wherein the amount of heat applied is in degrees

Art Unit: 1615

centigrade. (8). The quantity of experimentation necessary is extensive for determining other forms and means for applying energy. While electromagnetic radiation such as microwaves is disclosed there is no guidance for determining the amount or intensity of such energy. Nor is there guidance in equating heat in degrees centigrade to microwaves over the required periods of time. The disclosure of a single species of energy, which in this instance is heat does not provide a basis for claiming the generic concept of energy. The claims are therefore not commensurate in scope with the disclosure.

Claims 1-13, 19 and 20 are rejected.

Claims 14-18 and 21-23 have been canceled.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Spear whose telephone number is 703 308 2457. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 6:30 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page, can be reached on (703) 308 2927. The fax

Art Unit: 1615

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 305 3592 or 703 308 4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 1235.

James M. Spear

May 20, 2003

*James M. Spear*

JAMES M. SPEAR  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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